

always in the same spot. Can it be a secretory gland? No doubt we will get to the bottom of this matter in the near future.

KALAW,

SHAN STATES,

BURMA.

October 1938.

W. S. THOM.

VI—THE RECORD THAKIN HEAD.

(With a photo).



I enclose herewith a photo of a thakin head which has recently come into my possession. The head was brought down by a Mishmi tribesman several years ago and came into my possession through the courtesy of Mr. F. P. O'Connor of Itakhooli Tea Estate.

The frontal part of the horns are extremely gnarled and ridged and this point combined with close proximity of the two tips indicates the great age of the beast.

The measurements—very carefully taken and checked by a friend—are as undernoted:—

<i>Length.</i>	<i>Girth.</i>	<i>Tip to tip.</i>	<i>Widest spread.</i>
25½ Rt. } 25 Lt. }	15 } 15 }	8	17

Unless Rowland Ward's Records contain measurements which can beat it this head would appear to be the record.

There is one head given in Burke's *Indian Field Shikar Book* which has horn lengths of 25 and $24\frac{3}{4}$ but the spread is no more than $13\frac{1}{4}$.

The measurements, when compared with those given in this book of records, are remarkable for the 'tip to tip' measurement, and the 'widest spread'.

HOOGRIJAN TEA ESTATE,

UPPER ASSAM.

F. WOOLEY SMITH, D.F.C.

November 18, 1938.

[The largest head of a Mishmi Thakin recorded in Rowland Ward (9th Edition) is one belonging to the late J. F. Needham. The owner's measurements are as follows:—

<i>Length on Front curve</i>	<i>Circumference</i>	<i>Tip to Tip</i>	—Eds.]
25"	13"	$11\frac{1}{2}$ "	

VII.—A TREE MOUSE (*VANDELURIA OLERACEA*) IN THE NEST OF A SPIDER.

Dr. Gravely, in his notes on 'Indian Insects, Myriapods and Arachnids' (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xi, 1935, p. 535), while discussing at length the habits of the spider *Stegodyphus* (Fam. ERESIDÆ), observes as follows:

'Associations of other animals with African species of *Stegodyphus* have been recorded by Marshall and Pocock. Marshall describes a doormouse which lives in *Stegodyphus* webs and ultimately drives away the spiders, and both authors refer to a *Microlepidoptera* which lives with the spiders in their nests.'

To add to this his own experience in India, Gravely cites the case of the Moth (*Brachmia xerophaga*), living with *Stegodyphus sarasinorum*: also that of a *Uloboid* spider making use of the webs of *Stegodyphus* and concludes that 'other associations, probably of a more casual nature, may also occur.' To illustrate this remark, he narrates how, once in Orissa 'when pulling STEGODYPHUS nests to pieces in order to obtain lepidopterous larvae,' he found 'in addition, the following animals alive within them:

- one Cribellate spider (? DICTYNIDÆ),
- one Centipede (? GEOPHILIDÆ),
- one large LEPISMATID and
- two minute Beetles (ANTHICIDÆ and CLAVICORNIA).'

In support of the foregoing, may I venture to place before your readers further evidence which I have recently come across. Whether the association is casual or of a permanent nature cannot be said without further evidence but the case is quite unique as no similar incident has been, to my knowledge, ever recorded from India.

On 11-8-1938, I went for a whole day cross-country tramp with my friend, Mr. R. G. Kharadi, B.Sc. We intended to collect insects for the museum of the Gujarat Natural History Society.